



**FY 2015 PERFORMANCE PLAN  
Public Service Commission**

**MISSION**

The mission of the Public Service Commission is to serve the public interest by ensuring that financially healthy electric, natural gas, and telecommunications companies provide safe, reliable, and quality services at reasonable rates for District of Columbia residential, business, and government customers. This mission includes:

- Protecting consumers to ensure public safety, reliability, and quality utility services;
- Regulating monopoly utility services to ensure their rates are just and reasonable;
- Fostering fair and open competition among utility service providers;
- Conserving natural resources and preserving environmental quality;
- Resolving disputes among consumers and utility service providers;
- Educating utility consumers and informing the public; and
- Motivating customer and results-oriented employees.

**SUMMARY OF SERVICES**

The Public Service Commission regulates public utilities operating in the District of Columbia by issuing orders in formal proceedings that may include written comments or testimony, hearings, studies, and investigations; ensuring fair and appropriate utility prices; fostering competition by licensing utility service providers and supervising the competitive bidding process; ensuring utility providers meet various environmental regulations and standards by operating in ways that conserve natural resources and preserve environmental quality; and resolving disputes among consumers and utility service providers.

In addition to its regulatory services, the Commission also conducts outreach via its website, public forums, and various literatures in order to educate utility consumers and inform the public.

**PERFORMANCE PLAN DIVISIONS<sup>1</sup>**

- Natural Gas Pipeline Safety
- Utility Regulation
- Agency Financial Operations
- Agency Management

**AGENCY WORKLOAD MEASURES**

Measure	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 YTD <sup>2</sup>
Number of cases opened	665	798	591
Number of orders issued	375	339	280
Number of natural gas pipeline safety inspections conducted	456	330	200
Number of One-Call (Miss Utility or Call Before You Dig) inspections conducted <sup>3</sup>	972	956	700
Number of payphone site inspections conducted	275	263	210
Number of Renewable Portfolio Standards applications processed	226	344	336
Number of consumer complaints and inquiries processed	1,582	1,697	1,085

<sup>1</sup> The PSC is an independent agency. For the purposes of the FY 2015 Performance Plan, the PSC elected to organize the Plan at the agency level instead of by budget division to recognize the fact that the organization's goals require interaction across offices.

<sup>2</sup> Data as of June 30, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Each year, the Commission has been awarded a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation that funds safety inspections of location markings to prevent damage to underground utility facilities.



**OBJECTIVE 1: Ensure safe, reliable and quality electric, natural gas and local telecommunications services.**

**INITIATIVE 1.1: Implement new undergrounding law.**

The Electric Company Infrastructure Improvement Financing Act of 2013 became effective on May 3, 2014. In compliance, on June 17, 2014, Pepco and the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) filed a joint application requesting (a) approval of the Triennial Underground Infrastructure Improvement Projects Plan (“Triennial Plan”) to underground certain electric distribution feeders in the District of Columbia, for the first three years of the undergrounding project (i.e.2015-2017), and (b) approval of a Underground Project Charge to be charged by Pepco with respect to the costs it incurs for the underground project. The entire undergrounding project is expected to extend for a period of 7-10 years at a total cost of approximately \$1 billion. In addition, by law, Pepco and DDOT are also required to file with the Commission by August 1, 2014 a proposed Financing Plan for approval of a Finance Charge to be charged by the District with respect to its financing costs.

In FY 2015, the Commission’s goals are to issue orders approving by February 2015, the first Triennial Plan and Underground Project Charge that identifies at least 20 feeders to be undergrounded and approving by March 1, 2015 the Financing Charge.

**Completion Date: March 1, 2015**

**INITIATIVE 1.2: Oversee the technology transition in telecommunications**

The Commission encourages all utilities to adopt new technologies that improve services to the public, while also protecting the core values upon which quality services depend. These core values are public safety, universal service, competition, and consumer protection.

As part of this effort in the field of local telecommunications, the Commission has launched an investigation into Verizon DC’s deployment of fiber optic facilities to replace copper facilities in the District of Columbia in Formal Case No. 1102. The investigation focuses, in part, on the impact that this technology transition will have on the services that are currently provided to some District consumers over copper facilities, including in particular: the call and response capabilities of emergency services, the ability of competitors to interconnect to a full panoply of telecommunications services, and the extent to which a fiber network can provide service during a power outage. The investigation will also consider what information and disclosures Verizon DC should provide to District consumers about the features of voice service using fiber facilities. Finally, the Commission is considering whether District consumers who have converted to fiber facilities but now wish to revert to Verizon DC’s copper facilities may do so.

In FY 2015, the Commission’s goals are to hold a mixed evidentiary and legislative hearing concerning this investigation and to issue a final decisional order no later than September 30, 2015. **Completion Date: September 30, 2015**



### **INITIATIVE 1.3: Oversee Washington Gas Light, Inc.'s implementation of its Accelerated Pipeline Replacement Program (APRP)**

After the Commission in its decisional Order No. 17132, issued on May 15, 2013 in Formal Case No. 1093 found technical deficiencies in Washington Gas Light, Inc.'s (WGL) proposed Accelerated Pipeline Replacement Program (APRP) Plan, WGL filed a revised 40-year Accelerated Pipeline Replacement Program (APRP) Plan on August 15, 2013 and a request for approval of a surcharge mechanism to pay for the APRP projects. WGL estimated the 40-year Revised Plan would cost approximately \$1 billion. WGL requested Commission approval to implement the first five years of the Revised APRP that WGL estimated would cost \$110 million. In Order No. 17431, issued March 31, 2014, the Commission approved WGL's revised APRP subject to conditions set out in that Order, including the submission of a detailed first-year implementation plan. The Commission also opened a new formal case docket (Formal Case No. 1115) for the proceedings and decisions pertaining to the Revised APRP going forward. The Commission made clear that it was not approving, the entire 40-year revised Plan; that it is in the interest of the ratepayers to approve only the first 5-year segment of the revised Plan at this time. This procedure will enable the Commission and interested stakeholders to assess WGL's performance at the end of the 5-year period to ensure the Revised Plan is accomplishing what it promised, to ensure that the work is being completed timely and on budget, and to work out any problems with the Revised Plan that emerge. The Commission then anticipates approving the remainder of the revised 40-year Plan in additional 5-year segments, with the Company requesting Commission approval for each 5-year segment separately.

In FY 2015, the Commission's goals are to give final approval to the Revised WGL Plan and to schedule proceedings (including hearings) to determine the appropriate cost recovery mechanism for the utility to recover the costs of the revised Plan from District ratepayers on an expedited basis without a traditional base rate proceeding. The Commission expects to begin the surcharge phase of Formal Case No. 1115 in FY 2014 and to issue a final Order on the surcharge phase in early 2015. WGL is expected to begin the actual implementation of the revised APRP in FY 2015. Throughout the entire life of the Revised APRP, the Commission will monitor the program, including reviewing individual prioritization, design, construction, and costs of the projects, as well as timely completion of the projects within the established budgets.

**Completion Date: September 30, 2015.**<sup>4</sup>

## **OBJECTIVE 2: Foster fair and open competition among utility service providers**

### **INITIATIVE 2.1: Render a decision on Exelon/Pepco's proposed merger.**

On June 18, 2014, Exelon, PHI, Pepco, Exelon Energy Delivery Company, LLC, and New Special Purpose Entity, LLC filed a joint application for approval by the Commission of a change of control of Pepco to be effected by the merger of PHI with Purple Acquisition Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Exelon. As a result of the proposed merger, PHI would become a subsidiary of Exelon. The applicants assert that PHI and Pepco will continue to maintain headquarters in DC and the existing operational

---

<sup>4</sup> Some tasks will be completed in FY15, with monitoring tasks continuing for the life of the APRP.



management structure of PHI will remain substantially the same. Moreover, applicants further assert that Pepco will continue to operate within DC as an electric public utility subject to the continuing jurisdiction of the Commission and without any reduction in the Commission's existing oversight and authority over Pepco. No changes in rates are proposed in the filing. The applicants further claim that the proposed merger will not diminish Pepco's current plan to improve system reliability, including implementation of the undergrounding project described above. On May 14, 2014, the Commission opened Formal Case No. 1119 to consider the joint application and invited interested persons to intervene.

In FY 2015, the Commission's goal is to conduct a thorough investigation of the joint application, including the holding of evidentiary hearings that can be viewed by the public and community hearings throughout the District wherein citizens can share their views on the proposed merger. The investigation will include the possible impact of the merger on wholesale and retail competition in the District. The Commission plans to render its decision in this adjudicative proceeding by June 30, 2015.

**Completion Date: June 30, 2015**

### **OBJECTIVE 3: Educate utility consumers and inform the public**

#### **INITIATIVE 3.1: Create a new outreach program for competitive suppliers and consumers**

For more than a decade, District residents have been able to choose their electric generation and natural gas commodity suppliers while Pepco and Washington Gas remain the sole distribution companies. An increasing number of District consumers have taken advantage of the competition and are receiving their natural gas and electricity from competitive suppliers. However, while the competitive supplier program has been growing, so have the number of complaints about the marketing and business practices of some of these suppliers. The Commission has been investigating this problem, and has launched rulemakings to strengthen both the Consumer Bill of Rights and the licensing requirements for competitive suppliers. The Commission has also taken steps to improve the compliance of certain designated competitive suppliers who generated a high number of complaints.

In FY 2015, the Commission will launch a Supplier Education Workshop that is aimed at informing the competitive suppliers about the requirements for doing business in the District of Columbia. The topics covered will be (1) an overview of the licensing process, including steps that need to be taken to show financial and technical qualifications, (2) the requirements of the Consumer Bill of Rights, including protections against misleading marketing and business practices, and (3) the process for responding to consumer complaints, including the Commission's mediation and arbitration services. The Workshop will be required of all licensed Competitive Energy Suppliers and will be available both in person and online. The initial Workshop is scheduled for the second quarter of FY 2015 and the online version will be available no later than September 30, 2015.



In addition, in FY 2015, the Commission will ensure that consumers are aware of the Commission’s rules regarding the marketing and business practices of competitive suppliers. The Commission will produce easy-to-read Consumer Alerts that inform potential customers of their rights at each stage of the competitive process: from marketing, to billing, to who to contact if something goes wrong. These alerts will be available on the Commission website and will be distributed at outreach events throughout FY2015. **Completion Date: September 30, 2015**

**OBJECTIVE 4: Motivate customer and results-oriented employees**

**INITIATIVE 4.1: Relocate the Commission to 1325 G Street, N.W.**

The Commission is planning to move to another location that will enable all employees to be on one floor, and thereby enhance communications among offices, increase teamwork and productivity, and provide a more efficient use of space. On July 6, 2014, the Commission’s proposed lease for 30,872 sq. feet at 1325 G Street, N.W. was deemed approved by the D.C. Council. The proposed lease is for a term of 10 years and 6 months, with one five-year renewal option.

In FY 2015, the Commission will complete the design of the office space, carryout the build-out in accordance with the approved floor plan, and relocate the Commission’s offices from 1333 H Street, N.W. to the new home. In anticipation of the move, the Commission is accelerating its archival program so as to be able to reduce and reorganize files and thereby achieve a more efficient use of space. The Commission will also upgrade its technology particularly in the hearing room to facilitate the public’s viewing of hearings and other proceedings. **Completion Date: June 30, 2015**

**KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – Public Service Commission**

Measure	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Target	FY 2014 YTD <sup>5</sup>	FY 2015 Projection	FY 2016 Projection	FY 2017 Projection
USDOT rating for the Commission’s natural gas pipeline safety program	NA <sup>6</sup>	98%	NA	98%	98%	98%
Adjudicative case decisions to be issued within 90 days from the close of the record	100%	95%	NA	95%	95%	95%
Percentage of consumer complaints resolved at the informal level	80%	97.6%	NA	85%	90%	90%

<sup>5</sup> FY 2014 YTD data is not available because they are annual measures. Data will be available at the end of the fiscal year.

<sup>6</sup> The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)-funded Gas Pipeline Safety Program is on a calendar year basis. USDOT audits the program in the Spring or early Summer of the following calendar year and the results usually become available in the fall of that year. Thus, USDOT’s rating of the CY 2013 Program should become available in the Fall of 2014.