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**For Immediate Release**

### **MD Public Service Commission: No Utility Turnoffs Allowed During Extreme Heat Wave**

Baltimore, MD—The Maryland Public Service Commission reminds citizens that during the heat wave, public utilities are prohibited from terminating gas service used for cooling or electric service to residential customers.

The regulations state that a utility may not terminate a customer's service for failure to pay on any day when the temperature forecast made by the utility's weather station area for that customer at 6 a.m. is expected to be 95 degrees or above at any time during the next 72 hours. This is a rolling 72-hour period, which is re-determined every 24 hours at 6 a.m. Utilities may still terminate service in theft of service situations or to respond to unsafe conditions.

"Our goal is to ensure the safety of every citizen during extreme weather conditions," says PSC Chairman Douglas Nazarian. "People should take appropriate steps to stay cool, but they should remember, too, that heat waves can put serious strain on the electric system." Customers who participate in demand response programs, such as BGE's Peak Rewards and Pepco and Delmarva's EnergyWise Rewards, may have their air conditioners cycled, and people should take care to avoid using electricity they don't need at peak times like these.

The Commission has been in contact with the local utilities, which are increasing staffing during the evening and night shifts to address any heat-related outages that may arise. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has a list of recommendations for dealing with the extreme heat on its website, <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/extremeheat>.

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