

CHESAPEAKE UTILITIES CORPORATION- \*  
MARYLAND DIVISION, SANDPIPER ENERGY, \*  
INC. AND ELKTON GAS COMPANY'S \*  
APPLICATION FOR GENERAL INCREASE IN \*  
THEIR NATURAL GAS RATES AND FOR \*  
APPROVAL OF CERTAIN OTHER CHANGES \*  
TO THEIR NATURAL GAS TARIFFS \*

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BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF MARYLAND  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CASE NO. 9722  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

Issued: June 17, 2024

**PUBLIC UTILITY LAW JUDGE'S  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING**

On January 30, 2024, Chesapeake Utilities Corporation – Maryland Division (“Maryland Division”), Sandpiper Energy, Inc. (“Sandpiper”), and Elkton Gas Company (“Elkton”) (collectively, the “Companies”) filed a Joint Application (“Application”) with the Commission for increases to their base rates for gas distribution service and for certain other changes to their natural gas tariffs.

According to the Application, as of September 30, 2023, Maryland Division serves 13,676 customers in Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Somerset and Wicomico Counties; Sandpiper serves 11,394 customers in Worcester County; and Elkton serves 6,842 customers in the Town of Elkton and certain surrounding areas.

The proposed rates, which are based on a proposed return on equity of 11.50%, are designed to increase the Companies’ revenues as follows: Maryland Division by \$3,090,763; Sandpiper by \$2,006,328; and Elkton by \$1,912,550.

An evening hearing for the purpose of receiving public comments in connection with the Application is hereby scheduled as follows:

**Tuesday, July 23, 2024  
7:00 p.m.**

**Wor-Wic Community College  
Guerrieri Hall  
3200 Campus Drive  
Salisbury, MD 21804**

The hearing will be live streamed and members of the public can participate virtually. If you would like to participate virtually, please send an email to [psc.pulj@gmail.com](mailto:psc.pulj@gmail.com) by

**12:00 Noon on July 22, 2024.** Otherwise, you may watch the public hearing on the Public Utility Law Judge (PULJ) Division’s YouTube Channel.<sup>1</sup>

Written comments may be submitted electronically or by first-class mail no later than **Monday, August 12, 2024.** Comments submitted electronically must be submitted through the Commission’s Public Comment Dropbox, which can be accessed through the Commission’s website at [www.psc.state.md.us](http://www.psc.state.md.us). Instructions for logging into the Public Comment Dropbox are located under the “Tools” section of the Commission’s website under the “Make a Public Comment” tab, which can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.psc.state.md.us/make-a-public-comment/>. Commenters utilizing the Public Comment Dropbox are required to complete a one-time registration. If submitted by first-class mail, comments must be addressed to Jamie Bergin, Chief Clerk, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. Only one copy is required. **All comments must include a reference to Case No. 9722.**

The Companies are hereby directed to publish, at least twice prior to the hearing date, notice of the public hearing and the opportunity for public comment by a display advertisement in newspapers of general circulation in each county or municipality within their service territory. In the display advertisement, the Companies are directed to publish the case caption and case number in addition to the date, time, place, and purpose of the hearing; that members of the public may participate be sending an email to [psc.pulj@gmail.com](mailto:psc.pulj@gmail.com) by 12:00 Noon on July 22, 2024; the link to the PULJ Division’s YouTube channel; as well as the methods and date by which written comments may be submitted.<sup>2</sup>

The Companies are directed to issue either a bill message or bill insert to their customers in their respective billing cycle that runs closest and prior to the hearing date, announcing the date, time, place, and purpose of the hearing, and how members of the public may participate or

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<sup>1</sup> You may access the PULJ Division’s YouTube Channel via the following link: <https://bit.ly/2X6wLiP>.

<sup>2</sup> Any party to the matter is also invited to post the Notice of Public Hearing on any website or social media platform that it may have at its disposal to publicize the time, date, and location of the hearing, that members of the public may participate by sending an email to [psc.pulj@gmail.com](mailto:psc.pulj@gmail.com) by 12:00 Noon on July 22, 2024, and the methods and date by which written comments may be submitted.

watch the hearing, as well as the methods and date by which written comments may be submitted. Additionally, the Companies shall place on their home pages a notice of the hearing, including the purpose of the hearing, in a manner that a customer need not click on a link to determine the date, time, location, and purpose of the hearing, and how members of the public may participate or watch the hearing, as well as the methods and date by which written comments may be submitted. Finally, the Companies are directed as early as practicable to utilize email, its routinely used social media platforms, or other means of communication at its disposal to further notify their customers of the hearing, as appropriate.

The Companies shall file certificates of compliance with the foregoing notice requirements on or before the date of the public comment hearing.

The Companies are also directed to prominently post on the day of the hearing, no later than **12:00 Noon** (EST), an informational sign at or near each public entrance of the building in which the hearing is being held which should be at least 17 inches by 22 inches in size, state the time, room number, and subject of the public hearing in a font size greater than 48 point and as large as the sign allows. The Companies shall submit an affidavit certifying that the necessary properly sized informational sign(s) were posted as directed, including the time the signs were posted and a photograph of the informational sign(s) near or at each public entrance of the building, which shall be filed with the Commission within two business days after the public hearing date.

*/s/ Kristin Case Lawrence*  
Kristin Case Lawrence  
Public Utility Law Judge  
Public Service Commission of Maryland

Reasonable accommodations will be made at Public Service Commission proceedings for qualified persons with disabilities, if requested 5 days in advance of the proceeding. (Dial 410-767-8000 or 1-800-492-0474 or access the prior numbers through the Maryland Relay Service at 1-800-735-2258.)

FREDERICK H. HOOVER, JR.  
CHAIR

MICHAEL T. RICHARD  
KUMAR P. BARVE  
BONNIE A. SUCHMAN



**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

June 17, 2024

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation-Maryland  
Division, Sandpiper Energy, Inc. and Elkton  
Gas Company's application for general  
increase in their natural gas rates and for  
approval of certain other changes to their  
natural gas tariffs

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Case No. 9722

**VIA EMAIL**

To All Parties of Record:

Enclosed is a copy of the Public Utility Law Judge's Notice of Public Hearing issued today in the above-entitled matter.

Very truly yours,

*/s/ Kathleen Berends*

Kathleen Berends  
Administrator

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Enclosure